

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for ~~producing~~ purifying a subunit peptide originating from an oligomeric protein having disulfide bonds within a subunit and between subunits, which comprises ~~the following steps~~:

(a) ~~a step of~~ refolding the subunit peptide by denaturing the oligomeric protein or its subunit peptide in a solution with a protein-denaturing agent and removing the denaturing agent from the solution in the presence of polyoxyalkyl polyether having a functional group that reacts with a thiol group to allow the subunit peptide to bind to the polyoxyalkyl polyether via the reaction between the thiol group of the subunit peptide and the functional group of the polyoxyalkyl polyether that reacts with a thiol group; and

(b) ~~a step of~~ isolating the subunit peptide bonded to the polyoxyalkyl polyether from the solution.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the subunit peptide isolated in ~~step~~ (b) has decreased antigenicity.

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the oligomeric protein is a dimer.

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the polyoxyalkyl polyether having the functional group that reacts with the thiol group is polyethylene glycol having a maleimide group.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the subunit peptide originating from the oligomeric protein is a recombinant protein.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the oligomeric protein or its subunit peptide is denatured under reducing conditions.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein a physiological activity of the oligomeric protein arises from a subunit peptide constituting the oligomeric protein, and the subunit peptide bonded to polyoxyalkyl polyether has the physiological activity.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the subunit peptide bonded to polyoxyalkyl polyether has an activity of inhibiting a physiological activity of the oligomeric protein.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the polyoxyalkyl polyether is bonded to a cysteine residue of the subunit peptide that is originally involved in formation of a disulfide bond between subunits in the oligomeric protein, ~~among~~
~~cysteine residues in the subunit peptide.~~

Claim 10 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the subunit peptide bonded to polyoxyalkyl polyether has a disulfide bond identical to a disulfide bond within the subunit in the oligomeric protein.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A subunit peptide originating from an oligomeric protein having disulfide bonds within a subunit and between subunits, wherein

polyoxyalkyl polyether is bonded to a cysteine residue that is originally involved in formation of a disulfide bond between subunits of the oligomeric protein, among cysteine residues in the subunit peptide, and the subunit peptide has decreased antigenicity.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The subunit peptide according to Claim 11, wherein the oligomeric protein is a dimer peptide that originates from snake venom and has an activity of inhibiting binding of a von Willebrand factor to a platelet.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The subunit peptide according to Claim 12, wherein the snake venom is snake venom of *Crotalus horridus horridus*.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The subunit peptide according to Claim 12, which exhibits an antithrombotic activity.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The subunit peptide according to Claim 14, which is a peptide having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and having polyoxyalkyl polyether bonded to the cysteine residue of amino acid number 81 in the amino acid sequence, or a derivative thereof.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 3, and 9 have been amended.

The amendment of Claim 1 is supported by the corresponding claim as originally filed and the specification as originally filed, for example at page 18, lines 25-29. The amendment of Claims 3 and 9 is provided by the corresponding claims as originally filed.

No new matter has been added by the present amendments.